



PHOTOS BY BLAKE MADDEN

**CSI** **NCCAT**



*Bass explains the importance of careful handling of evidence at the "crime scene."*

## Teacher-detectives discover clues to learning

Forensic anthropologist Dr. Bill Bass of the University of Tennessee visited NCCAT recently to guide teacher-detectives through a week of simulated crime-scene investigation, in hopes of ultimately whetting their students' appetites for science and math.

Bass has been a regular visitor for the past seven years, cooperating with Dr. Renée Coward of the faculty, in the seminar "Crime Scene Investigator: The New Sherlock Holmes." The popular seminar, which always has a waiting list, offers participants insights into Bass's forensic expertise, which has been years in the making.

Bass began his education in counseling, after serving in the military during the Korean War. While completing the coursework for a master's degree, he switched to anthropology after being invited on a case by an inspiring

professor who recognized his potential and appreciated his talents. "That case was when I realized 'that's what I want to do.' I call it 'Aha!' learning," Bass said.

Bass brings that spirit to NCCAT each time he visits, teaching the teachers, leading them to "Aha!" moments, inspiring them to take those epiphanies to the classroom.

Coward, who works closely with Bass developing the seminar, said that this seminar is a model of what NCCAT does for teachers. "It allows them to become students again and to rediscover how much fun learning can be," she said. "In this seminar, teachers are tackling some fairly difficult areas of study but they're excited about learning and about gaining the knowledge and skills that will help them solve the mystery. They can take this same model of inquiry-based learning back to their students."

## Drawing on nature and heritage

Cherokee artist and storyteller Davy Arch detailed the intricacies of his art and heritage for teachers who participated in “Cherokee Artistry: Drawing on Nature’s Bounty” held in May. The seminar traced the origins and progression of Cherokee

art through its ties to the southern mountain woodlands, and the history and culture of the Cherokee as Native American people.

Arch learned the art and craft of mask carving, for which he is nationally known, from the elder mask maker Sim Jessan, while working at the Oconaluftee Living History Village in Cherokee. He has demonstrated at the World’s Fair, had his masks displayed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and been interviewed on National Public Radio. He has been a visiting presenter at NCCAT for many years, always eager to share his knowledge of Cherokee artistry with North Carolina’s teachers.

Cindy Kimble, an art teacher from Goldsboro, said the seminar experience and the lessons

she learned will benefit her art classes at Northeast Elementary. “I plan to integrate Cherokee history into my art program,” she wrote in an e-mail.

## Seminars respond to teachers’ needs, board members told

NCCAT plans to develop more seminars for teachers that will focus on pressing needs in education. In a report to the joint spring meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the Development Foundation held April 23–24 in Ocracoke, Dr. Mary McDuffie, executive director, said the center has developed partnerships with other teacher-focused organizations and agencies to better serve high-needs areas.

“Our programming team works to make certain the professional development that we provide meets the needs of today’s teachers,” McDuffie said. “We are constantly evaluating our seminars and other programs to stay on the cutting edge.”

In 2006–07, NCCAT will offer new seminars in leadership development, closing the achievement gap, and inquiry-based science instruction. NCCAT also has established partnerships with other state agencies and university campuses to provide seminars targeting high-needs school districts.

In other news, the Development Foundation received more than \$600,000 in grants and awards to support and enhance NCCAT programming this year. Gifts and contributions, including generous responses from alumni and proceeds from the NCCAT Golden Apple Gala, totaled \$125,461 as of June 1. The foundation re-elected its officers, including Richard Schwartz of Raleigh, president; Willis Whichard of Chapel Hill, vice-president; and Judy Phillips of Cary, treasurer.

The board of trustees approved new personnel policies and an operating agreement between NCCAT and the Development Foundation. Two new trustees were sworn in by Kenneth Wells of Manteo, board chairman. They are Lee Leidy, an attorney from Elizabeth City and Dr. John Highsmith, who has a dental practice in Clyde.



PHOTO BY BOB SCHATZ

*Davy Arch shares insight with teacher Cindy Kimble.*



## Young, black, male, and a success

During the seminar “Young, Black, and Male in America” held in April, participants gathered to examine the issues and challenges they face in assuring success for some of their students. They discussed the roots of the crisis facing young, black males in America, issues of responsibility, and how educators can address the crisis in their classrooms, schools, and communities.

The seminar, offered by NCCAT for many years, grew as a response to statistics showing that only 54 percent of young, black males who enter North Carolina’s high schools graduate. According to the Manhattan Institute of New York, that graduation rate for black male students is 6 percent higher than the national average, but well below the graduation rate of white, male students, which tops 75 percent.

“The teachers were appreciative of having the opportunity to spend the week with such a distinguished group of black, male educators,” said Dr. Ernest H. Johnson, center fellow. “Many teachers commented about how they have never been in the presence of so many individuals with positive suggestions for how teachers can improve their relationships with their black, male students,” he said.



PHOTO BY BLAKE MADDEN

Johnson discusses the challenges faced by young, black males.

## Writers inspire teachers

Pulitzer Prize-nominated author Ron Rash and Kathryn Stripling Byer, North Carolina’s Poet Laureate, share their writing and insight with teachers at NCCAT.

Rash, the author of the novels *One Foot in Eden*, *Saints at the River*, and *The World Made Straight*, holds the John Parris Chair of Appalachian Studies at Western Carolina University, where he teaches writing and Appalachian literature. At NCCAT he participated in the “Gathering of Diversity Educators” seminar held in May and also gave a public reading from his work.

Byer, author of the poetry collections *Wildwood Flower*, *Black Shawl*, *Catching Light*, and *Coming to Rest*, was a guest presenter at the May seminar “Writing Poetry: Rhythms of the Heart.” Byer shared her work and inspired teachers to compose and share poems during the week.

NCCAT is offering several seminars to North Carolina public school teachers this fall supporting the need for strong reading and writing skills in all subject areas. These seminars include “Teaching Writing Through Children’s Literature,” “Writing From the Sea, Messages from the Heart,” “Lift Up Your Voice: Writing, Storytelling, and Song,” “Visual Journal: Where the Image Meets the Word,” “Daydream Believers: Tapping the Passion for Imaginative Literature,” and “Hidden Treasures: Discovering Books by the Sea.”



PHOTO BY BARBARA MACON

Above: Christine Williams of Raleigh meets North Carolina novelist Ron Rash. Left: North Carolina’s Poet Laureate, Kay Byer.





## Ocracoke

# "If I had a

When the eastern NCCAT campus opens in the former Ocracoke U.S. Coast Guard Station, members of the Board of Trustees and the Development Foundation's Board of Directors will have left a lasting impression—their signatures. During their joint spring

meeting held in April in Ocracoke, the board members ceremoniously hammered nails into a ceiling joist that had been removed from the station's old interior. The autographed

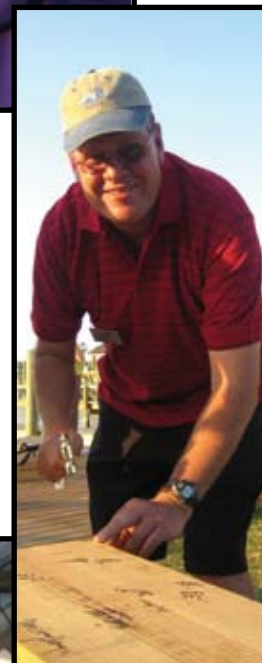




## Future campus takes shape

# hammer..."

board will be displayed on a wall when the building opens in 2007 for NCCAT activities. When fully operational, the new facilities will host up to forty seminars a year for visiting teachers as well as a variety of weekend programs for educators. Three weeks after these photos were made, the hammers of the *real* contractor, D.S. Simmons Inc. of Goldsboro, were in full swing at the station.



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH A. GILLESPIE AND JOHN HIGHSMITH



PHOTO BY LINDA KINNAR

*Huggins and Watkins of Selma, Alabama, both active in the voting rights movement, talk with teachers on the steps of the Dallas County Courthouse.*

## Revisiting the civil rights movement

Lawrence Huggins of Selma, Alabama, who was a teacher during the struggle for civil rights in the 1960s and a current volunteer at the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute in Selma, addresses teachers gathered at the foot of the steps leading into the Dallas County Courthouse. With him was Susie P. Watkins of Selma, License Commissioner for Dallas County, who works in the courthouse.

Selma was the final stop during the seminar, "Let Freedom Ride: Traveling the Road to Civil Rights in America" held in March. The participating teachers boarded a bus in Greensboro, then traveled the routes of the Freedom Riders, the men and women who rode buses into the South during the 1960s to ensure that federal desegregation laws were being upheld.

Along the way, the teachers stopped at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum in Sedalia, North Carolina, where they learned of the historic Palmer Institute, at the time one of the few fully accredited preparatory schools for African Americans. From Sedalia, they went to Atlanta, Georgia, and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, then to Montgomery, Alabama, and the Southern Poverty Law Center, which is dedicated to civil rights and tolerance education.

While in Montgomery, the teachers also visited the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and the Rosa Parks Museum.

From Montgomery, the group traveled north to Birmingham, site of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where a bombing in 1963 resulted in the deaths of four young girls. The church became a rallying point for the movement.

In Selma, the teachers learned of the city's integral role in the movement as the site of "Bloody Sunday," when on March 7, 1965, marchers attempting the journey to Montgomery were stopped by police just short of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Two weeks later the marchers, led by Dr. King, succeeded in crossing the bridge.

## DVD wins three awards

The promotional DVD, *We All Need Good Teachers* has won three national awards for NCCAT. The production about the center's professional development programs for teachers was honored with an Aegis Award, a Telly Award, and an Award of Excellence from the Videographer Awards competition for 2006.

The Aegis Award is the video industry's premier competition for peer recognition of outstanding video productions and non-network TV commercials. The Telly Award is a highly respected national and international competition receiving more than 12,000 entries. There were more than 2,000 entries from throughout the United States and several other countries for the Videographer competition.

*We All Need Good Teachers*, was produced by Steve Murray Productions of Raleigh and Will and Deni Films of Winston-Salem.



## A slice of culinary technology

How do you get children to eat more vegetables? What can be done to reverse the growing problem of obesity among young people? These were among the topics of discussion during “You Are What You Eat,” a seminar held in May for school-system child nutrition directors.

The seminar sessions also covered topics ranging from how food preferences change with age, to eating disorders, to how genes and culture contribute to food choices. During a visit to the facilities of the award-winning culinary arts program of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, the seminar group was treated to a lab-kitchen demonstration, featuring precision knife-slicing, led by students who are members of the college’s Hot Food Team, state gold-medal winners of the American Culinary Federation competition.

Of the seminar experience, Donna Bommer, child nutrition director for Jackson County Schools, said: “For us, this was an opportunity to see food preparation and nutrition from a different perspective.” Diane Shuler, Swain County’s nutrition director, agreed. “It’s good information that we can take back with us,” she said.



PHOTO BY CHRISTY MCCARLEY

*AB Tech’s Maria Leblow of the college’s award-winning culinary team demonstrates the art of julienne slicing.*

## Discussing children in poverty

Karen Dameron, director of New Teacher Services for Edgecombe County Schools, and NCCAT’s Executive Director Dr. Mary McDuffie took a moment to share their thoughts during the seminar “Left Behind: Children in Poverty” held in February. Dameron was a guest presenter for the seminar, which was designed to address the ways poverty shapes students’ behavior, thought-structures, and world views. It also focused on ways to understand the struggles of children from poor homes and to help them successfully complete their studies.

Dameron presented discussions ranging from class and economics to ideas of generational poverty and class movement. She discussed the difficulties impoverished students may face at home, and the ambivalence that parents may feel about their children’s rising levels of education.

Other presenters in the seminar discussed widely varied issues of class and wealth, migrant workers, methamphetamine and its impact on rural communities, families and children, the relationship of poverty and achievement, and behaviors linked to poverty.



PHOTO BY BARBARA MACON

*Dr. Mary McDuffie and Karen Dameron of Edgecombe County Schools talk about poverty and education.*

## Go for launch!

Twenty-four teachers traveled to Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, to participate in the seminar "Space Camp: Your Place in Space" held in March.

During the seminar, teachers learned of the history and science of space exploration, while training for the week's simulated shuttle mission, which would transform each of them into a vital member of the shuttle crew, whether on Earth, directing the excursion from Mission Control, or in "space" aboard the shuttle.

Each of the crew members received firsthand experience with Space Camp's unique equipment designed to simulate conditions in orbit, such as the microgravity chair, which creates the sensation of 1/6 Earth's gravity, or the EMU, or extra vehicular mobility unit, designed to simulate a spacewalk in a frictionless environment. After their simulation the teachers designed, built, and tested heat-



PHOTO BY BARBARA MACON

*Robles-Cox and fellow teachers work to assure a safe return from "orbit."*

shield tiles for the space shuttle and experimented with the science of propulsion. They also conducted experiments in physics and motion, using materials that would be available at grocery and hardware stores back home.

### NCCAT • SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Volume 19 • Number 3 • July 2006

**The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching**

Published by: The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching

276 NCCAT Drive, Cullowhee, NC 28723-9062

Phone: 828-293-5202 Toll Free: 800-922-0482 Fax 828-227-7363.

The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching is a unit of The University of North Carolina

Dr. Mary D. McDuffie, Executive Director

An Equal Opportunity Institution

25,000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$5,376 or \$0.21 per copy

Address newsletter inquiries to: Christy McCarley, Editor.

E-mail: mccarley@nccat.org

***The North Carolina Center for the  
Advancement of Teaching***

*276 NCCAT Drive*

*Cullowhee, NC 28723-9062*

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CULLOWHEE, NC  
PERMIT NO.1

*Address Service Requested*